California GARDEN

JULY-AUGUST 2004 Volume 95 No. 4 $2.00

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

June 11-July 5
2004 SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR Paul Ecke, Jr. Flower & Garden Show "Seussentennial." Hours Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 10 a.m.-11 p.m. **Closed Mondays, except July 5**. 858/793-5555 or www.sdfair.com.

June 25 Fri.
WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Summer Concert 7 p.m. "Jim Earp, Guitarist" 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Free.

July 2-3 Fri.-Sat.
THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS National Cactus and Succulent Show. Over 1000 award-winning plants. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. both days. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. 626/405-2100. General admission.

July 3 Sat.
QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Compost Class. First Saturday of the month, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sponsored by Solana Recyclers. Fee required only if visiting Garden. Class is free. 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. For more info: 760/436-7986.

July 3 Sat.
★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY open from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri., also the first and third Saturdays. **Members** of SDFA can check out books. (Membership $10 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762 or visit www.sdfloral.org.

July 3 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Water Plants 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR Ferns for the Garden, 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

July 7-11 Wed.-Sun.
2004 WESTERN REGIONAL GARDEN RAILWAY MEET Tours involve 35 garden railways to see (self-guided); a full day at Wild Animal Park, including barbeque. For more information, try www.sdgrs.com or call Laura Rey at 858-279-2493. $60 adults, $40 children.

July 8 Thurs.
THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS Second Thursday Garden Talk & Sale 2:30 p.m. Speaker to be announced. Check www.huntington.org or call for recorded info: 626/405-3570. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino.

July 10 Sat.
THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS "Growing Orchids Outdoors" 1-4 p.m. Many gardeners know that Cymbidium orchids can be easily grown outdoors in Southern California. What they may not know is that many other types of orchids are equally well suited to the outdoor life. Join orchid expert Doug Conkin for an informative class on the best orchids to try outside and how to care for them. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Members $30. Non-members $40. Registration: 626/405-2146.

July 10 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Plumeria 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR, Xeriscape Gardening 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Court, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

July 10 Sat.
WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Monthly class 9:30 a.m. "Plants for a Hot and Dry Climate." with Cindy Drake. 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Free.

July 11 Sun.
QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Summer Concert Series starting with Brazilian jazz with the Holly Hofmann and John Pisano Quartet. 5:00-8:00 p.m. Ticket prices $20 for members and $25 non-members. Price includes dinner buffet, intermission dessert, and coffee. No-host wine, beer and soda. **Pre-payment required**. Call 760/436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com.

July 12 Mon.
THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS Field Botany: "Lily Pond Garden" Join Jim Folsom, Director of the Botanical Gardens, for a close-up look at aquatic plants. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Members $25, Non-members $35. Registration: 626/405-2146.

July 12 Mon.
SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Monthly meeting "From Garden Paths to Waterfalls, Wonderful Things to Do with Rock" by Michelle Mcleod, Southwest Boulder & Stone. 6:30 p.m. Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. 858/756-2579. Free.

July 17 Sat.
★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See July 3 for details.

July 17 Sat.
WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Herbs 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR, Gardening Q&A: Get Answers to Your Gardening Questions at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

July 23 Fri.
WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Summer Concert 7 p.m. "Chris Klich Jazz Band" 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Free.

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VOLUME 95 NUMBER 4

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE HANDS-ON GARDENER
JULY-AUGUST 2004

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FRONT COVER photograph of *Plumeria* sp., by Ken Ames

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"HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 98

July 24 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Staghorn Ferns 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR, Heat Lovers: New and Old Varieties from Monrovia at 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct, Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

July 24-25 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO ORCHID SOCIETY Summer Mini Show and Sale. Sat. noon-4 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

July 25 Sun.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Summer Concert with the legendary Gary LeFebvre Trio, featuring Tommy Gannon and Glen Fisher. See July 11 for details.

July 28 Wed.

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB Monthly Meeting 6 p.m. "Succulents, Cacti and how to Propagate Them" with Patrick Anderson. Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St. (at Fort Stockton). Free to club members, $5 for guests.

July 31 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Summer Rose Care 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR, Container Gardening 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

July 31-August 1 Sat.-Sun.

HON NON BO ASSOCIATION SHOW and Sale of Plants and Rocks. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

August 7 Sat.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS Tropical Fruit Trees 1-4 p.m. Discover how to grow the world's most exotic and delicious fruits right at home. Class includes tour of Huntington's tropical fruits trees. Members $35, non-members $45. Registration: 626/405-2146.

August 7 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See July 3 for details.

August 7 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Hibiscus 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR, Creating Your Own Personal Water Features 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

August 7-8 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO DAHLIA SOCIETY Show. All are welcome to bring blooms to exhibit on Friday August 6, or Sat. between 8-10 a.m. Doors will be locked, you must have Custodian let you in. Judging (closed to the public) begins at 11 a.m. Lunch is provided for exhibitors. Contact David Tooley at 858/672-2593 or Djsj21643@aol.com for more details. Open to public Sat. 1-4 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

August 8 Sun.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Summer Concert with the eclectic sounds of Peter Sprague and his 6 piece group. See July 11 for details.

August 9 Mon.

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Monthly meeting "Daunted, Not Dumb" with Felder Rushing, author of *Passalong Plants*. 6:30 p.m. Del Mar Fairgrounds, Surfside Race Place, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd., Del Mar. 858/756-2579. Free.

August 12 Thurs.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS Second Thursday Garden Talk & Sale 2:30 p.m. Speaker to be announced. Check www.huntington.org or call for recorded info: 626/405-3570. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino.

August 14 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Gardenias 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR, Beginning Bonsai: Techniques and Care 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

August 14 Sat.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Monthly class 9:30 a.m. "Take the Irritation Out of Irrigation" with Dan Carney. 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Free.

August 21 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY will be open. See July 3 for details.

August 21 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Fairy Garden Workshop 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR, Urginea, The Giant Sea Squill & Allium 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

August 21-22 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY Show and Sale. Show starts Sat. noon-5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The sale is 10 a.m.-5 p.m. both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

August 22 Sun.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Summer Concert with the R&B and jazz sounds of King Biscuit, led by world renowned Ken Schoppmeyer. See July 11 for details.

August 24 Tues.

THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS Curator's Garden Walk: The Herb Garden. 4:30-6:00 p.m. Join Shirley Kerins, landscape designer and former curator of the Herb Garden, for a fascinating ramble through the garden's history. Members $15, non-members $20. Registration: 626/405-2146.

August 25 Wed.

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB Monthly Meeting 6 p.m. "To be Announced" Mission Hills United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St. (at Fort Stockton). Free to club members, $5 for guests.

August 26 Thurs.

ASLA/MCASD LECTURE SERIES 2004 featuring Alan Tate. 6 p.m. Reception, 7 p.m. Lecture. Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, 700 Prospect St., La Jolla. General admission $10, members $7, Seniors & students $7.

August 27 Fri.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN Summer Concert 7 p.m. "Elaine Harper and Richard Wilkie - Traditional American Folk" 12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West, El Cajon. 619/660-0614. Free.

August 28 Sat.

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY CLASS on Children's Gardening 9:00 a.m. at 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego. 619/224-8271. OR, Fall Rose Care 9:30 a.m. at 12755 Danielson Ct., Poway. 858/513-4900. Free.

August 28-29 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO TURTLE & TORTOISE SOCIETY Show, Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

"DOWN TO EARTH" With Tom Piergrossi
Daily at 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on CTN
Time Warner 22 or Cox 19 or 24, and Adelphia 66

BALBOA PARK

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Docent tours with reservations. Fee. 619/232-2721.

OFFSHOOT TOURS Volunteer guided. Various topics. Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. 619/235-1121. Free.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS Volunteer guided. History oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM Canyoneer Walks. Sat.-Sun. Sept.-June. 619/232-3821 ext 203 or www.sdnhm.org for locations, times, and directions. Free.

SAN DIEGO ZOO ORCHID ODYSSEY Third Friday of every month from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., showcasing orchids from Papua New Guinea, Central and South America, Africa, Thailand, Australia, China, and Vietnam. Free with Zoo admission.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Garden Tours & Events. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036 or www.qbgardens.com. General admission.

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks. Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858/679-5469.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided Walks. Newsletter. 619/231-SHOE. Free.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE Water Conservation Garden Landscape Seminar on 2nd Saturday of each month. 9:30 a.m. Docent tours Sat. 10:30 a.m. and Sun. 1:30 p.m. 619/660-0614. Free.

THE HUNTINGTON is open Tuesday through Sunday 10:30 to 4:30 p.m. Closed Monday and most holidays. $12.50 adults, $10 seniors, $8.50 students(12-18), $5 youth(5-11) under 5 and members are free. Group rate (10+) $9.50 626/405-2100 or www.huntington.org.

Deadline for submission to **HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR** for SEPT/OCT issue is July 15. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

GARDENING CLASSES

BETTY NEWTON
14 WEEK COURSE
"Landscaping: Trees, Shrubs and Flowers"

Begins Sept. 2 Thurs. A.M.
Foothills Adult Center. 8:50 a.m.-Noon. Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122. Fee.

JOYCE GEMMEL
7-WEEK COURSE
Bio-Dynamic and French Intensive Vegetable Gardening
Begins Sept. 3 Friday A.M.
Foothills Adult Center. 9:00 a.m.-noon Room 12, 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. 619/401-4122. $25.

THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION BACKYARD HABITAT STEWARDS PROGRAM IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD STEWARDS!

The goal of the Habitat Stewards is to train volunteers to assist other community members in developing and maintaining wildlife habitat. Stewards receive training and hands-on experience to serve by providing assistance, consultation, and education about wildlife creation and restoration in the community.

Two Habitat Stewards training sessions will take place this fall and winter. The Ramona training session will start September 25 at the Forest Service located in Ramona. A San Diego area training will take place at the Water Conser-

vation Garden at Cuyamaca College, starting January 15. Each training will consist of four consecutive Saturday all day classes. You will learn how to create habitat enhancement sites in backyards, schools, or other locations in the community. The training will also include guest speakers on the topics of native birds, butterfly gardening, sustainable organic gardening practices, and native plants. There is a $20 materials fee for the training.

Upon completion of this training program each Habitat Steward volunteer will help to implement a specific habitat project(s). This could include working with community members to design a habitat site; promoting the program and lending your expertise at special events; writing articles about creating habitat for local newspapers or community organization newsletters; giving a presentation about creating wildlife habitat, and much more. Each Habitat Steward volunteer is expected to fulfill a volunteer commitment of at least fifty hours over the course of one year. For more information contact:

Ramona Training:
Carol Killebrew, Habitat Stewards Host
killebrew@ix.netcom.com 760/788-9309

San Diego Training:
Connie Beck
holisticgardener@yahoo.com 619/749-4059

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San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101-1622 [in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park]

San Diego Horticultural Society

Meetings 2nd Monday of every month, 6:30pm

Free Admission – Everyone Welcome!

Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd.

Join us for a guest speaker, plant sales, plant display. Meetings are open to all. Membership brings you:

- Monthly 26-page newsletter
- Trips to outstanding gardens
- Local garden tours
- Discounts at nurseries
- Seed & plant swap
- Video and book library
- Annual Garden Party
- and much more!

Upcoming Events & Meetings:

July 12: Designing with Stone
Michelle McLeod, of Southwest Boulder & Stone, presents a lively slide talk about effectively using stone in your garden.

August 9 – Daunted, Not Dumb!
Join **Felder Rushing**, author of *Passalong Plants*, in an insightful and funny up-close look at the "right brain" love of growing stuff.

Available now: our hardcover, lavishly illustrated book, *Ornamental Trees of San Diego*, only $34.95

Info: www.sdhortsoc.org or (760) 730-3268

San Diego Horticultural Society

Gleanings . . .

gathered by barbara jones

SUN & WIND . . .
Every gardener knows that plants need light to grow, preferably sunlight. It activates the chlorophyll (the green stuff) to create new tissue and purify the air. Our earth revolves about the sun and the fusion of hydrogen and helium in the sun's center causes the temperature to be over 15 million degrees Celsius. The amount of energy that reaches our planet is ten thousand times more than we need. Scientists predict this energy will last about four billion years more. Another non-polluting energy source is wind. Wind is caused by solar (sun) radiation that causes temperature differences that create wind. Both these energy sources were utilized in homes years ago — windmills to pump water and charge batteries, and the warmth of the sun heated rocks that were placed near plants to promote growth. We should seriously think about generating a bit of the energy we use. New technology has made it possible. Special panels create energy (that can be stored in batteries) from sunlight and new wind harvesting structures (windmills) generate electricity. Both can be easily incorporated into the home garden.

CALENDULAS . . .
This attractive plant makes a colorful addition to the garden with a minimum of care and watering. *Calendula officinalis* has been around a long time — it appeared in Egyptian hieroglyphs 7000 years ago. It was named in early Roman times when botanists noted that it appeared to bloom on the first of the month, *calend*. When we think of it, we picture the flower as attractive, orange, and sturdy. The colors also range from cream through yellow, apricot, and almost red.

It is still known to many as pot-marigold because of its early use as a cooking pot herb. It is still used in rice dishes, cakes, and as coloring for butter and cheese. The petals are sweet-saline in taste and are often used in salads.

It has been used for medicinal purposes, and today oil from the flowers is used in creams to treat dry skin and stings. Through the years it has been credited with curing many diseases. Scientists are testing to see if the petal oils really have all the curative powers that have been attributed to them.

GENTLE PESTICIDES . . .
There is a new generation of pesticides, vegetable based. Lemon and orange oils are used for insects, primarily fleas and ants. Capsaicin, hot pepper, is used to repel insects. Flying insect pesticides are made of mint oils. Jojoba oil is the main ingredient for a spray for powdery mildew. These pesticides are short-term effective so must be used several times. They are kind to the environment and do not pollute ground water and streams.

MANGROVE TREE . . .
Mangroves, those plants that grow in the swampy tidelands of South Florida and reach up to 100 feet are the newest "hot" indoor potted plant. The ones being sold are miniature — only 3 to 5 inches tall. They have a green stem with few leaves and exposed roots. They need little light, warmth, and 1 to 2 inches of standing water. On the East Coast they are being sold in grocery and home equipment stores for prices ranging from $7 to $15. Don't go out into the wild to collect. It's illegal to cut any part of the mangrove in the U.S.

SPACE & MOON . . .
It always seems so romantic when space is mentioned. (We have better maps of Mars than we do of our own planet!) All the videos, movies, and comics make it seem so easy. Scientists have conquered the travel side and sent objects into space. But — building a space station on the moon or sending humans into space is a bit more complicated. NASA has been researching the problem for years. The main solution to space travel is the same as for humans to exist on our huge spaceship Earth — living plants. Plants purify the air and water, dispose of waste, and provide food. It is estimated that astronauts use about 4 pounds of food per day. For a two-year trip, that works out to about 1½ tons per person. This does not include water. These are unrealistic amounts of material, so plants must be included as a functioning part of the life-support system. It is estimated that 40 to 50 square feet of plants could purify the air, 200 square feet for daily carbon dioxide removal and oxygen return, and 400 square feet for food. Wow! That will be a big space ship!

LEAF AND FLOWER SHAPES OF PLUMERIAS

by DR. DONALD P. WATSON, JAMES T. CHINN,
DR. HOWARD F. CLAY, and DR. JAMES L. BREWBAKER

PLUMERIA SPECIES AND SOME MAJOR CULTIVARS

The three most common species of plumeria in Hawaii may be identified by the shape and appearance of their leaves. Leaf shapes for the three common species in Hawaii are: *Plumeria acuminata, P. obtusa, and P. rubra.*

Plumeria acuminata has light-green, shiny leaves with narrow pointed tips. It is called *P. acuminata* because of the acuminate [gradually narrowing to a point] leaf. The flowers are white with large yellow centers diffusing into white toward the tips of the petals. The blossoms are produced on upright, slightly hairy flower stalks. They are fragrant and have good keeping quality. One seed pod produces about 30 seeds. The tree grows to be 35 feet in height. Cultivars with *P. acuminata* parentage are: Common "graveyard" yellow, 'Gold', 'Sherman', and 'Samoan Fluff'.

Plumeria acutifolia

Plumeria obtusa has dark-green, shiny leaves with rounded tips. The leaves are present on the trees throughout the year, while many other plumerias are almost completely defoliated. The showy white flowers with a small bright yellow center are born on upright, green, non-hairy flowering stalks. Although the flowers are fragrant and have some value for making leis, they turn brown quickly after handling and storage. Seed pods are produced in quantity and have characteristic up-curved tips. The tree grows up to 26 feet in height. 'Singapore' appears to be the only representative of this species in Hawaii today. Since it is a favored host for scale insects and mites, many gardeners are reluctant to plant it.

Plumeria rubra has a dull-green, elliptical leaves with a tendency to be broader at the tips than the bases. Typical of the species are red flowers without yellow centers. The blossoms are born on hairy flower stalks that usually hang downward. Seed pods are fairly prevalent and trees reach 26 feet in height. 'Hilo Beauty', 'Japanese Hanging Basket', 'Scott Pratt', and 'Erma Bryant' have *P. rubra* parentage. 'Madame Poni', 'Puu Kahea', 'Kauka Wilder', 'Daisy Wilcox', and 'Rainbow', although of hybrid origin, have in their background some *P. acuminata* or *P. obtusa*.

LESS COMMON GENERA:

Plumeria alba has light-green, shiny, paddle-shaped leaves with rounded tips. The flowers are small, 1 inch in diameter, white with small yellow center. They are born in a loose cluster on a green, non-hairy stalk. Seed pods rarely form. The branches are small, the tree grows to be 35 feet high, and is spindly in habit. The plant may have landscape value.

Plumeria bahamensis has shiny, dark-green, long, narrow leaves with pointed tips. The white flowers are 1½ to 2 inches in diameter and have a small yellow center. They are sparsely produced on an upright, non-hairy stalk and are of questionable commercial value. The branches have small diameters and the tree rarely grows to be more than 10 feet high.

Reprinted from an out-of-print circular of the College of Tropical Agriculture, University of Hawaii, circular 410, November 1965. This excerpt brought to our attention by ***Carl ~~Price~~*** *of Southern California Plumeria Society.*
HERZOG

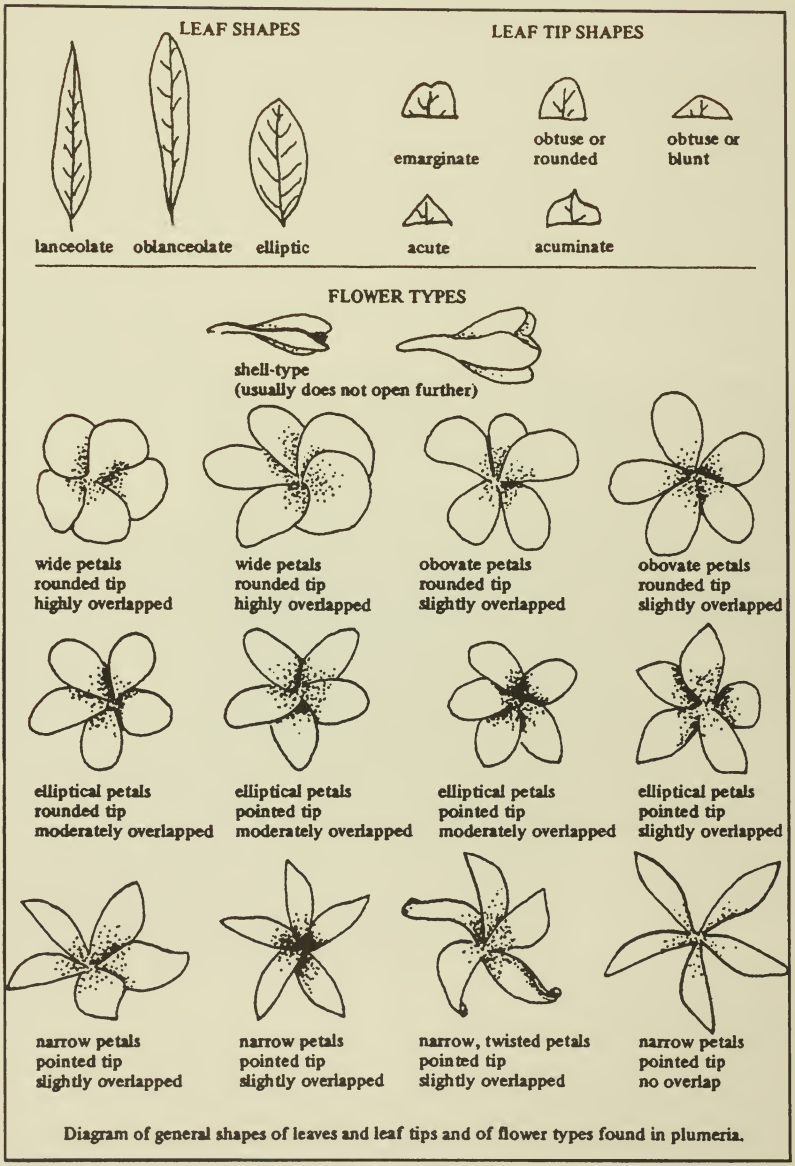

Diagram of general shapes of leaves and leaf tips and of flower types found in plumeria.

MAKING A GARDEN RAILWAY IN RANCHO SAN DIEGO

BY LINDA K. JURHS

A DIFFERENT CREATIVE WAY to garden is to limit your plants to dwarf size or close to it and add a railroad. There are lots of suppliers for both miniature plants you will need and trains that will run outside. Use "G" scale rail cars and your imagination to create any time period or type of garden you most enjoy. My husband and I have used only 9 feet by 25 feet of yard to include a river, mountain, and village with train station set in the late 1800s. It's a peaceful, happy little town where fishing ia a big sport and lumbering is the main occupation. We have been working on this section of our garden for approximately three years.

Linda and Steven Jurhs live in Rancho San Diego with views out to Cottonwood and Steele Canyon Golf Courses. Here is an early spring planting at their front corner.

We started our garden by building the river that ends in a lake where a hidden pump runs the water to the beginning again. We reworked the watering system and added good soil and compost at the same time. It now has a trestle, tunnel, and two bridges for the track.

Some of our trees, *Chamaecyparisthyoides* 'Eroides', are true dwarfs and are planted directly in the soil. Other trees like common boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens)* hedge are in containers buried in the ground so we can easily remove them for trimming and controlling their growth. We use lots of tiny leaf ground cover including Irish moss, *Arenaria verna (Minuartia verna)*, and Scotch moss, *Sagina subulata.* [Linda tells us she waters these plants, which prefer a colder climate, up to three times daily. There is an overhead spray system.] Many thyme plants work well. The green and golden leaves of *Thymus citriodorus*, especially 'Doone Valley', look great. I like the lacy look of *Bacopa* 'Snowflake', also, although you have to keep it trimmed. At our recent train party one of the most asked about ground covers was *Sedum brevifolium*. Its tiny leaves fit right in. We use water hyacinth in the lake as it inhibits algae growth. Armstrong Nurseries carry ground covers called "stepables," and these work well, too.

You can run the trains several ways. Ours is run by track power like most toy trains are. However, they also can be run by battery or live steam. The controls for ours are hidden inside buildings, and run by a remote control held in one's hand. Engines can blow smoke out the stack. They also can sound just like the real engine, matching the sound to the changing speed of the wheels. There are train modelers we refer to as "rivet counters" that get very fussy about scale and detail. We are not that particular. In other words, you can make it whatever you desire. For me, the joy of it is building and maintaining a miniature Disneyland in my own back yard.

I was asked how I got into gardening. I have always just loved being in the garden. One of the earliest moments of my life that I can recall is sitting in my mother's garden in the shade peeling succulent plants and tasting them all. They were rather bitter, but I didn't care. I kept hunting for a good one. Being in the garden is the best place on earth and I am always out there trying something.

For help getting started, try some of these resources. The San Diego Garden Railway Society has

Looking out at the back of the Jurhs lot, the family begins their railway scene with a riverbed coming from between Melaleuca quinquenervia, white paperbark trees. The railroad garden is below several terraces and only takes up 250 square feet in the garden.

Here we have a sleepy village, which so many people have enjoyed.

310 families involved with this hobby. The club meets once a month at a member's home. For more information the website is http://www.sdgrs.com. The president, Tom Rey, teaches classes at Poway Walter Andersen Nursery Saturday morning. There is a garden railroad for you to see at the nursery. Legoland on Palomar Airport Road also has a garden railroad with lots of dwarf living plants from which to get ideas. Another great resource is *Garden Railways* magazine. This magazine is full of colored pictures of gardens and lots of suppliers for plants and trains. Find them at www.gardenrailways.com, the address is Kalmbach Publishing Co., P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha WI 53187-1612.

It just so happens that the **Western Regional Garden Railway Meet** will be held in San Diego from July 7 through 10, 2004. It is an opportunity to see forty of the best railroad gardens in San Diego county. To register for this event please use the San Diego Garden Railway Society's website or contact Laura Rey at 858-279-2493. The deadline for registration is June 20th. □

Linda and Stephen Jurhs moved to Rancho San Diego twelve years ago. Steele Canyon Golf Course was developed since then. At our request she sent pictures of a part of their front yard planting. Guests visiting recently said it was just marvelous. Photographs by the author.

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BASICS ARE FOUNDATION FOR A FINE GARDEN RAILWAY: Think First; Avoid Stopping at Chaos

By BETTY NEWTON with ED BROZ

ED SAYS, "ANYBODY WHO wants to get into garden railroading should consider first the space they have available and what they actually want to do in creating this garden in their yard. Some things they should consider are: Do they want to do a European or an American layout? It could be early 1800s, early 1900s, or today. So consider what you want to do. You must stop and think first. Some of our club's members are from Europe and they want to reflect their homeland. Consider this first.

"Another thing to consider is if you have a family with children, you must make it more childproof. And because it is for the children, the garden railroad must be more rugged and not as detailed, so that it will not be destroyed. You want them to be able to play with it without the railroad being ruined.

"Basically once you determine what it is going to do, your job is to come up with an approach. Each is unique. The simplest way is to lay track, weaving it through the existing plants."

You must not have over a two percent grade—almost flat. Ed and Fay have a generous flat back yard. Then get power to the tracks, put the train on and power up. If you don't have time to build a building, buy a little bird house, or several, for the station or scenery. Someday you may retire. Broz built a miniature copy of the farm house his wife grew up in and painted it as it was then—white with green shutters.

Broz admonishes that, "Water won't hurt LBG black track but, before running your train, you must clean it using a cleaning brush or a cleaning train. USA brand or Aristo track are less expensive and not so rugged. If, on the other hand, the train is radio controlled, you don't have to clean the tracks if nothing is lying on them, and the kids can run it. It gets expensive based on what you do. Garden railroad enthusiasts have $1,000 to $50,000 invested."

Broz started this absorbing adventure in 1992. Before that, he had railroads in the family room and under the Christmas tree. Now, outdoors, it takes hours to set up. The green and white farm house took forty hours of work to make and paint with an air brush. Rain, or spatters from rain, would ruin it.

This experienced model railroader stresses that: "All garden railroads are unique and individual. In addition to choosing and thinking through your time and place, you have to be aware of your realtime climate." The 130 San Diego Garden Railroad society members live on the coast, inland to the east, in the semi-desert, and even up north in Washington and Oregon. Plants chosen for inland valley gardens here have to be able to tolerate inland high temperatures or they'll go "belly up." And in some places it gets down below freezing. Broz has found a few very good trees. He is very fond of the

Chamaecyparis thyoides 'Eroides', which has a very soft look. Ed feels this can grow anywhere and can handle heat. He finds it has minute needles as short as ⅛ inch. Broz put these in as 12- to 18-inch seedlings. You see the mature plants here at the entrance to a railroad tunnel. Each plant can take him as much as two hours grooming when the pot is lifted out. Ed goes over it with his pruning shears to make sure that it keeps its bonsai, miniature, or to scale character. Australian tea tree, [*Leptospermum laevigatum]* 'Appleblossom' that blooms pink with tiny needlelike leaves and flowers that are between ¼- and ½-inch wide, along with the soft-foliaged *Chamaecyparis*, provides the bulk of the railroad's "garden".

Ed and Fay have planted the 3-inch *Haworthia fasciata* and an unknown *Echeveria*. From among still smaller succulents, he also uses two *Sedum*s, one of the stonecrops that can resemble a Joshua tree, and *Sedum rubrotinctum* "that gets purplish and pink." □

Photographs by Ron Drumheller.

THOSE BLOOMIN' PLANTS!©

BY PAT PAWLOWSKI

THERE HE WAS, right outside the window, looking in at me with a menacing manner. He had run out of patience. Time was of the essence. He was hovering excitedly, anxiously, and was almost demanding that I hurry it up! I knew I had better step lively if I wanted to retain my sanity.

It was time to refill the hummingbird feeder.

A SIMPLE SOLUTION

To avoid stressful moments like the one above, there is a simple solution (besides the one where you combine 1 part sugar to 4 parts water, boil it, cool it, and refill the feeder). The easy way to keep everybody happy is to provide lots of real flowers for everyone to enjoy.

WHO NEEDS WHAT

Hummingbirds need nectar to survive; they'll appreciate plants that form lots of nectar-producing blooms over an extended period of time. Beneficial insects—you know, those handy little helpers that save you money and time by providing live-in pest control—also need flowers to supply them with pollen and nectar. And, of course, a floriferous yard will attract nectar-noshing butterflies.

Last but not least, we *homo saps* need blossoms too. As flower fancier Luther Burbank said: "Flowers always make people better, happier and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine to the soul."

How true it is.

FREQUENT FLOWERS

Naturally, one of the easiest and pleasingest ways to have lots of flowers around is to landscape your yard with plants that produce flowers for extended periods of time. Most of the ones mentioned in the following paragraphs also will make your winged wildlife buddies very grateful.

ENDLESS EXOTICS

Bloodflower milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) - An icky-sounding common name for an uncommonly wonderful perennial, this plant attracts many different and intriguing visitors with its distinctively-shaped red and yellow-hued flower clusters. The striking cultivar 'Silky Gold' has inflorescences of rich yellow and California poppy orange. Most importantly, the inimitable monarch butterfly uses milkweed as a host plant. What more needs to be said?

Pigeon berry or sky flower (*Duranta repens* or *erecta*) - A feisty tropical shrub that travels in the fast lane, it may reach 15 feet or more. Cerulean blue flowers appear in spring and summer. Demands lots of water. Angry needle-pointed spines may appear on stems; beaky yellow berries that follow flowers are poisonous. Be sure not to antagonize this plant.

Lantana (*Lantana* sp.) - Exceptionally long-blooming evergreen shrubs to fill every need. Colorful flowers appeal to nectar-seekers and small black berries attract birds. Spreading purple, yellow, or white-flowering varieties of lantana are good for erosion control. Flower clusters of the bush types come in many color combinations. Drought-tolerant sun-worshiper.

Feed lightly (as should we all).

Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) - Evergreen, needly-leafed shrubs come in all sizes; somewhat prostrate to tall 'Tuscan Blue'. Small nectar-containing flowers come in many shades of blue. Throw rosemary (the plant) into soups, stews, chicken dishes. Distinctive fragrance is pleasant.

Autumn Sage (*Salvia greggii*) - Splendiferous sage with most bloom occurring July to November, some at other times of year. Bright red flowers attract hummers (the birds). Cultivar colors come in many shades. Needs hardly any water near coast, some inland; appreciates a bit of shade if in a hot area.

Passionflower Vine (*Passiflora ×alato-caerulea*) - Pushy but nice vine with beautiful, strikingly-shaped flowers. Host plant for gulf fritillary butterfly caterpillars, which may munch a bit more than you like; not to worry, however—interplant *Passiflora* with a vine like blue dawn flower (*Ipomoea acuminata* or *indica*) a perennial morning glory that caterpillars won't eat. Problem solved.

Floss Flower (*Ageratum houstonianum*) - Petite annual with bright light blue flower clusters for spring and summer color.

Sweet Alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*) - An easy-to-grow, tiny annual that provides the garden with color all year from self-sown seeds it throws wantonly about. Beneficial insects especially appreciate nectar contained in the white, rose, or purple florets.

Encelia californica, coast sunflower

Pincushion Flower (*Scabiosa caucasica*) - Perennial that blooms summer until winter if flowers are cut (as you will, since they are good in floral arrangements). Butterflies are drawn to the blue, light purple, or white flowers.

Pickerel Weed - For those with ponds, the flowers of *Pontederia cordata* provide color in spring, summer, and fall. However, like most other aquatic plants, pickerel weed will be dormant in winter when water temperatures go down. Until then, however, its attractive purplish flowers on 2- 4-foot stems will beckon butterflies. So if you have a pond, pick pickerel weed.

Island Bush Snapdragon (*Galvezia speciosa*) - If you can't go to Santa Catalina Island with the Four Preps, bring the island flora to you with this evergreen, moderate-sized shrub with the scarlet tubular flowers that attract hummingbirds. It blooms enthusiastically in spring but some flowers appear at other times, whenever they feel like it.

There are many other long bloomers including Garden Geranium (*Pelargonium ×hortorum*); Ivy Geranium (*Pelargonium peltatum*); Pentas (*Pentas lanceolata*); Heliotrope (*Heliotropium arborescens*); and Statice (*Limonium perezii*).

GRATEFUL DEADHEADING

You can encourage extra flowering in some plants by a process called deadheading, wherein you pinch off spent flowers. A plant, of course, needs to replicate itself—flowers initiate the reproduction process and so if you remove this first step, the plant, undaunted, will produce even more flowers, for which everyone will be grateful.

NEVERENDING NATIVES

According to Valerie Phillips of Las Pilitas Nursery, there are many California native plants that have a fairly long blooming period. For instance:

Pozo Blue Sage (*Salvia clevelandii x leucophylla* 'Pozo Blue') - This perennial with leaves of a wonderful Wild West fragrance will bloom April through July. Hummingbirds love the vibrant purple-blue flowers. It's easy to grow; try to include this one in the yard. This is sage advice.

Bee's Bliss Sage (*Salvia* 'Bee's Bliss') - Another sage, especially good as a small-scale ground cover. Can bloom January to April.

California Fuchsia (*Zauschneria or Epilobium* sp.) - Various kinds bloom July through November for late seasonal color—intense red to a soft pink and even white. Another plant beloved by hummingbirds. A wild one, it looks best in the casual garden.

Goldenrods (*Solidago* sp.) - Pollen-laden perennial blooms July to October for late seasonal color.

Butterflies visit.

Sulphur Buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*) - A woody perennial with bright yellow blooms for at least 6 weeks. Flattop buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) has delicate white flowers that evolve into a chocolate-rust (a favorite color of mine). Buckwheats are important to local wildlife.

Ribes sp.

California Lilac (*Ceanothus* sp.) - Possible 6 to 8 week bloom period if conditions are right. If *Ceanothus* 'Concha' is given part shade, its bloom period can extend to almost 4 months.

Currants and Gooseberries (*Ribes* sp.) - Some species flower from late fall through spring, for cool weather color. Birds like the berries that follow. Hummingbirds fancy the flowers.

Monkey Flowers (*Mimulus* sp.) - Perennials with unmonkeylike flowers that appear spring through summer in shades of cream, buff, yellow, orange, red, or rust.

Coast Sunflower (*Encelia californica*) - Fast-growing subshrub with large bright yellow daisylike flowers that are good in arrangements. Accepts little water and large amount of heat; accordingly, can get a mite rangy.

In my yard, narrow-leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) blooms regularly from mid-spring to late summer. Unfortunately, it dies back in the winter but until then, its flowers serve nectar-seeking beneficial bugs, and impart a cool white color at a hot time of the year. Next spring it of course springs back.

California Aster (*Aster chilensis*) - Well regarded by native butterflies and moths, it flowers in summer, then retires in fall and cheerfully reappears the next February.

Generally speaking, in mild cool springs natives will produce flowers longer. Sudden intense heat, such as we experienced in early May, shuts vernal bloomers down earlier than usual.

PERENNIAL PLASTICUSIAS

This last plant group is especially attractive to the slothful gardener. *Plasticusias* may be purchased at many craft stores and some select ones may even be found at a discount store near you. Colors are eclectic and imaginative. Shape or form may be creative and even incomprehensible. Transplanting is ridiculously easy. Culture is simple; dusting once in a while. In some cases, dust may actually improve appearance. *Plasticusia* roots are not invasive; in fact, there are no roots. What could be simpler?

A FEW LASTING WORDS

If you want beauty and butterflies and birds and beneficials, however, better ditch the *Plasticusias* and concentrate on the other plants mentioned above. If you possess a variety of species with staggered blooming times, you and your flying friends are sure to be perpetually pleased.□

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens, 619-390-9399.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

NOW is the time to join! Learn how easy and fun it is to grow orchids. Meet the experts through society activities including lectures, tours, open houses, and classes.

The society meets the first Tuesday of every month at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Cultural classes start at 6:30 p.m. in the library, followed by the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in room 101. Refreshments, orchid display, and an orchid raffle follow the meeting.

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Now Is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND *CALIFORNIA GARDEN* STAFF

AFRICAN VIOLETS
Barbara Conrad

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MIST violets periodically with very warm water, as it cools a bit before the fine mist reaches the plants. Blot dry centers and avoid bright sunlight until droplets dry.

TO MAINTAIN room temperatures in violet areas above 60° and below 80°.

TO WASH leaves that have powdery mildew in warm water. Rub them lightly with your fingers. Try to place plants where there is better air circulation.

TO BRUSH dusty leaves or (gulp) those that have pet hairs with a camelhair brush.

TO WATCH for violets with leaves having long petioles, indicating that the plants are not getting enough light. Plants in these locations are less likely to bloom often.

BEGONIAS

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REPOT plants if needed — step up to next size container.

TO MAKE cuttings when trimming or pruning.

TO GROOM and inspect plants throughout growing season.

TO CHECK for mildew — spray at once for control.

TO CHECK for snails, slugs, and fungus.

TO POT rooted cuttings and leaves.

TO CONTINUE feeding.

TO REMOVE old flowers from tuberous type by snapping off the blossoms, not the stems.

TO FEED tuberous plants when flower buds appear. Feed one tablespoon High-Bloom and one tablespoon of fish emulsion to one gallon of water.

BONSAI
San Diego Bonsai Club

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER, water, water — but not overwater. During the hot months it is best to water early in the day. Some bonsai may need two or three waterings on hot, dry days.

TO TURN some trees for even sun exposure.

TO PROTECT some plants by moving into a shaded area out of direct sun.

TO CHECK for insects and pests — spray with a diluted spray. (Be careful with elm trees, which usually do not need spraying.)

TO MIST or spray foliage of certain bonsai, those which are humidity-loving, in the evening or early morning.

TO WAIT until September or October to transplant bonsai.

TO REMOVE excess blossoms from trees to save their strength for next year. Defoliate some of the deciduous varieties in July — not later.

BROMELIADS
Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PROTECT plants from burning during the hot weather by placing them under lath, shadecloth, clear fiberglass, or trees.

TO INCREASE the frequency of water according to the temperature, but do not allow the soil to become soggy.

TO CONTINUE to fertilize once a month during summer — using water soluble, high acid fertilizer. Use one-half of strength recommended on label.

TO REMEMBER to water plants one day before fertilizing.

TO CUT off shoots (pups) to make new plants while weather is warm. Remove when they are ⅓ or ½ the size of the mother plant.

TO KEEP plants clean by cutting off spent blooms and dead leaves.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS
Joseph Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH plants during hot weather. If they dry out too much they can shrivel and burn in the sun. Protect delicate specimens from the sun with screen.

TO WATER plants carefully. Some like to dry between waterings, others can take it wetter. Use less

on the plants that are dormant.

TO FERTILIZE growing plants but do not overfeed. A good rule of thumb is ½ strength every other watering.

TO WATCH plants for pests — especially snails. Treat immediately but be careful with insecticides.

TO CHECK for plants that need repotting and do so.

TO ENJOY your collection — take a little time to look at your plants.

CALIFORNIA NATIVES
Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO ENCOURAGE helpful bugs such as lacewings and ladybugs by not watering. Spider mites are a problem during the hot weather; the lady beetle *(Stethorus picipes)* will take care of them if you are not spraying.

TO RESIST the urge to over water during our hottest weather. Most of the natives survive in the wild by going into summer dormancy where the roots take up no or very little water. Water molds become a problem when these natives are over watered. FYI: People in England raise more of our *Ceanothus* and other natives in their yards than we do. They get lots of rain and water all summer! The reason they have no problems with this is that they have cooler soil with no water molds to kill the plants.

TO ENJOY the blooms of Matilija poppy *(Romneya coulteri)*. If drainage is good, extend the water on these. They will bloom until October if given enough water.

TO LET your local CNPS know which natives you would like to see offered in the fall, and prepare your soil for those you intend to buy.

CAMELLIAS
Jay Vermilya

NOW IS THE TIME

TO CONTINUE to feed cottonseed meal at the rate of 1 tablespoon per gallon-sized potted plant or up to 2 cups per large plant in ground every 4-6 weeks through mid-August.

TO WATCH for loopers, mites, and aphids. Hose off aphids, use malathion for loopers and a miticide for mites. Scales may sometimes be seen but are easily rubbed off. Orthene is an alternative for all the above.

TO MAINTAIN mulch around plants to keep roots cool and moist during hot, dry days.

TO CONTINUE regular watering. Inconsistent watering during this period is a primary cause of bud drop during blooming season.

TO START to disbud plants if fewer but larger blooms are desired. The degree of disbudding is a personal decision. Consider leaving only one bud per cluster. For show quality blooms as few as one bud per branch may be left.

DAHLIAS
Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO KEEP old blossoms cut back to first of leaves from the main stalk to prolong blooming.

TO DISBUD to encourage better blooms.

TO TIE canes to prevent plants breaking — use a loop for each cane.

TO CONTINUE regular watering program.

TO SPRAY for insects and mildew; control slugs and snails.

TO FEED with a 5-10-10 fertilizer.

TO CUT blossoms in late afternoon or early morning and place immediately in water.

EPIPHYLLUMS
San Diego Epiphyllum Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH moisture — spray or mist is beneficial during hot dry weather. Spray during evening hours or early morning.

TO REPOT plants that are rootbound.

TO TAKE new cuttings.

TO KEEP plants out of full summer sun; they need filtered sunlight and free air movement.

TO REMOVE spent blooms and unwanted "apples" to conserve the plant's vitality.

TO PLANT new cuttings during the warm weather allowing new growth to become established during the growing season.

TO WATER hybrids during the hot summer months, spray occasionally or mist. Do not allow soil to dry out completely.

TO CONTINUE pest and disease prevention using products according to the manufacturers' directions.

TO FERTILIZE for new growth. Use 10-10-15 strength at this time.

FERNS
San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO SPRAY for aphids and scale; keep snails, pill bugs, and slugs under control.

TO FERTILIZE plants regularly with a high nitrogen fertilizer. They are in their growing period.
TO WATER and maintain humidity by keeping the surrounding areas damp.
TO TRIM dead fronds.
TO PLANT fern spores.
TO PROTECT from the hot sun.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES
Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME
TO MONITOR soil moisture within the root zone and irrigate when soil begins to dry. Periodically apply enough water to leach salts below plant roots (3-4 feet deep).
TO SUPPORT limbs that have a heavy fruit load to prevent breakage.
TO BEGIN harvesting fruit as soon as it is ripe.
TO REMOVE fruit that is damaged or on the ground to discourage green fruit beetles and other insect scavengers.
TO PRUNE out shoots killed by fire blight on pear, apple, quince, and loquat. Make cuts at least 12 inches below (if possible) infected tissue and disinfect pruning shears between cuts.
TO KEEP ants off trees and periodically wash foliage with a forceful spray of water to promote biological control of spider mites, aphids, whiteflies, scale, and other insects.
TO INSPECT new leaves for signs of zinc and iron deficiency (yellowing between veins). Apply micronutrient spray if needed.
TO PRUNE out blackberry and raspberry canes that have borne fruit.

FUCHSIAS
San Diego Fuchsia & Shade Plant Society

NOW IS THE TIME
TO SPRAY to control insects. Orthene will control most pests: aphids, leafhoppers, caterpillars, leaf miners, thrips, and whitefly. Use manufacturers' instructions.
TO SNIP off runners for shape and new growth.
TO PRUNE lightly to encourage more fall blooms.
TO KEEP foliage misted. Spray only in the shade or early evening.
TO AVOID overwatering; keep damp, not wet.
TO FERTILIZE regularly with high phosphorus for buds and bloom.
TO REMOVE spent blooms and seed pods to encourage more and larger blooms.

HERBS
John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME
TO PREPARE gourmet meals with fresh basil and tomatoes.
TO DRY bundles of oregano, thyme, sage, tarragon, lemon grass, rosemary, lemon balm, gotu kola, stevia, lavender, and raspberry leaf. Hang herbs in a dry, ventilated area that is protected from direct sun.
TO PRUNE back plants that are taking over pathways or smothering other plants.
TO WATER wisely. Comfrey is a great water gauge. When its leaves droop, it is time to give it and other water loving plants, like the mints, a good deep watering. Be careful not to over water your lavender, thyme, aloe, sage, rosemary, fremontodendron, and other damp-sensitive herbs.
TO MAKE herbal sun tea and to add a sprig of fresh mint when serving.
TO FREEZE borage flowers in ice cubes (pinch off sepals) for elegant cool drinks.
TO ENJOY the long days of summer in your herb garden.

IRIS
Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME
TO SPADE and work humus into the soil to revitalize before planting rhizomes.
TO FEED plants left in the ground with a high nitrogen fertilizer — this one time only.
TO DIVIDE and replant tall bearded iris, taking only the new rhizomes attached to the outer edges of the mother clump. Dust ends of cut rhizomes with soil sulfur.
TO KEEP iris beds clean and free of old fans and weeds.
TO WATCH for aphids; use a light insecticide or a systemic.
TO CUT off spuria iris foliage, but do not dig until September.

ORCHIDS
Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME
TO KEEP an eye out for infestations of scale and spider mite.
TO USE the proper pesticide and keep in mind that at this time of year with low humidity and warm weather, there are continuous hatches of insects.
TO CHECK all potting mixes for good drainage. We

do not want rotting potting mixes.

TO MIST and spray on hot, dry days.

TO CHECK new seedlings and community pots. Do not let them dry out or get sunburned. Dry air caused by winds from the interior will desiccate small plants.

TO PLANT any keikis (offshoots) from *Dendrobium, Phalaenopsis, Vanda, Ascocenda,* etc., when roots are about two inches long.

TO CHECK the root tips of growing *Phalaenopsis* and other vandaceous plants (air roots). If the tip is green and elongated, the water and humidity are about right. If the tips are white, that indicates more water is needed or more humidity is required. This often applies to other genera also.

TO HAVE most monopodial (a growth habit in which new leaves develop from the same meristem or growing point) orchids dry by nightfall, so water will not sit in the leaf axil.

PELARGONIUMS
Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become relatively dry. Do this before the heat of the day. Each watering should moisten the entire soil ball. Excess water should drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible.

TO CONTINUE feeding a soluble, balanced fertilizer with micronutrients. Use at less than the recommended strength as often as needed to keep plants from developing nutritional deficiencies. Water and feed before the heat of the day. Do not feed if plants have become too dry.

TO CONTINUE pest and disease prevention, using products according to the manufacturers' directions.

TO GROOM plants, removing discolored leaves and faded flowers. The old bloom stalks on regals, scenteds, and similar types should be cut away with a sharp blade.

TO TAKE cuttings from zonals and ivies, if desired. Each cutting should have a healthy growing tip. Trim and insert into a moistened, sterile medium.

TO PROTECT cuttings and tender plants from the sun if temperatures are high. Move to a sheltered spot or create overhead shade. Keep summer-dormant plants dry and away from excessive heat.

TO CONTINUE to rotate pots on a regular basis in order to keep plants well shaped.

ROSES
Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FLOOD each basin at least twice, filling each basin with water prior to feeding. This will help reduce the salt build-up in the growing area. Deep watering is essential and lack of rain contributes to salt build up. If you are using a drip system, supplement it with deep watering on a monthly basis.

TO WASH off foliage in early morning with strong spray of water to control mites and keep leaves clean.

TO MAINTAIN beds with organic mulch to keep soil cool and friable. Some mulching materials deplete the nitrogen supply in the soil and you may wish to compensate by adding some form of nitrogen to maintain healthy green foliage. Many new products are available to assist in maintaining your roses, some good and some not so good.

TO PRACTICE "finger pruning" by removing small spurs and immature greenery that will not contribute to the growth of the plant but WILL ENCOURAGE unwanted insects and disease. Above all—protect all new basal growth.

TO PRUNE lightly in early August to encourage new growth that will encourage blooms into late November.

TO APPLY gypsum (calcium sulfate), an inorganic soil amendment. It does not change the pH, but added to alkaline soil it reacts with the insoluble sodium compounds to form sodium sulfate, which is soluble and can be leached out by HEAVY penetration. You MUST WATER, WATER. Sprinkle gypsum over entire bed and lightly rake in before flooding.

TO FOLLOW UP with a cup of alfalfa meal or pellets, a great root growth stimulant (available at most feed stores). Continue with your regular feeding program. Roses are heavy feeders and enjoy a change of diet. Add a handful of epsom salts to each bush at this time to enhance the green foliage. Above all, keep unnecessary vegetation from the rose by cultivation of the bed and/or mulch.

TO CHECK OUT the new varieties available and evaluate them as possible replacements or additions to your garden. Most rose ratings are based upon a nation-wide (or world-wide) study with completely diverse growing conditions and our climate often will not produce these results. If you do remove a plant, check it over to note the possibility of root gall, a white porous growth frequently appearing near the bud union, which has been caused by a careless shovel or cultivator. It is a good time to dig a large hole, replace the growing medium, and be ready for a

replacement.

TO PRESERVE old favorite varieties that may no longer be available. Often roses will start growing on their own roots as the bud union sinks below normal ground level. Some varieties that I now have growing with great vigor are my Papa Meilland, and Peter Frankenfeld. Research local gardens for varieties that will do well in your area.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MAKE last planting of warm-season vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, corn, beans, summer squash) in July for fall harvest.

TO PLANT seed of cole crops (cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower) in August for winter harvest.

TO COVER seed with floating row cover to protect young plants from insect pests.

TO WITHHOLD water from rhubarb and artichoke and allow plants to go dormant until fall.

TO CONTROL corn earworm, apply Carbaryl (Sevin) or *Bt* when silk first emerges, then every three days until silk turns brown.

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF: peppers (July), African daisies *(Arctotis)*, bachelor's buttons, calliopsis, celosia, cosmos, *Helianthus annus*, kale (ornamental), African and French marigolds, nicotiana, painted tongue (*Salpiglossis*), petunias, *Scabiosa atropurpurea*, scarlet sage, and Mexican sunflower (*Tithonia*).

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beans (snap and pole, lima in July), broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, corn (July), cucumbers (July), lettuce (head), peas, potatoes (August), summer squash — sweet alyssum, centaureas, dianthus, mignonette, annual phlox, portulaca, and Virginia stock (*Malcomia*).

San Diego Fern Society

ANNUAL FERN SHOW AND SALE

Casa del Prado - Balboa Park

Sat. 20 August 2004: Show 12 to 5; Sale 10 to 5
Sun. 21 August 2004: Show 10 to 4, Sale 10 to 4

KATE SESSIONS BOOK

The complete collection of writings by Kate Sessions in *California Garden* magazine from 1909 until 1939 is available at the San Diego Floral Association in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. This book contains a plant index, and many changes in plant names, particularly scientific, have been noted. Often known as "The Mother of Balboa Park," Kate Sessions for over fifty years devoted her life to helping people grow beautiful plants in San Diego. She tells how in this book.

ROLAND HOYT BOOK REPRINT

Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions by Roland Stewart Hoyt has been reprinted by his sons. This book has been available only at rare book stores until now (going rate $65). Bill and Mike have donated the new books to San Diego Floral Association. Ten dollars of each book sale will be added to the scholarship fund established in the name of Ethel and Roland Hoyt.
The books are available at office above.

Half the book is a written description and sketch of each plant. In recent years, many scientific names have been changed, but there is an updated nomenclature at the end of the book.

The Complete Writings of Kate Sessions 1909-1939

☐ **$21.00 non-members (book, tax, mailing)**
☐ **$18.00 members of SDFA (book, tax, mailing)**
($18 or $15 if picked up, tax included)

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TROUGH PLANTERS

BY CHRISTINE S. WOTRUBA

DO YOU WANT TO grow some special plants? Maybe they are small plants that get lost in the garden because they are tiny leaved, delicate things. Southern California's climate can be unkind to the grower. Unless their roots are deep and protected, fine-leaved heaths and heathers or tiny alpines, rock plant varieties will dry up in our rainless climate.

I have tried to grow unusual plants not conditioned to our climate. Many times have I tried to find the correct spot for these unusual plants native to mountain slopes or shaded woodlands. But these little gems, found in specialty nurseries, planted in our gardens get lost. They are smothered by the twining foliage above and strangled by the intrusive root systems of neighbors below. Heavy soils deny access to airy root runs, confining them to watery pockets that drown them. Special preparation of the soil was of only modest success. Luxurious soils sweetened the environment causing weak and flabby roots that were prone to rot. These plants looked lank, and tough neighbors thrived. Such lush growth attracted slugs, snails, cutworms, and fungus. Grasshoppers devoured overnight all the plants' leaves and stems.

Learning to recreate the atmosphere, the soil texture, and content to make these plants feel at home is the gardener's task. Their many needs include light, heat or cold, food and water. Generally tiny rock plants from mountain sites need almost a soil-free deep rocky root run or scree. Translated into horticultural terms that means providing excellent drainage with a cool deep root system. Consider a small plant on a mountain slope where rock shale surrounds and the sun is intense. Reproducing these extreme conditions in a garden of soil and rock works well when the number of hours in full sun is equal to the number of hours it receives in its natural environment. But it is difficult to provide fog and mist so the planting position also must be repeated. Provide some overhead watering and situate the plant in a northern or western position where light and shade can be adjusted and supply food and water when needed. These requirements demand exceptional planting sites.

Gardeners, here is some good news. There is a way to grow successfully tiny and delicate plants. The solution is troughs. You will be able to grow small rock plants like *Antennaria*s and *Arenaria*s in your landscape and have drought-loving crevice plants like the *Dudleya*s grow on your patios.

And for all you gardeners who are short of space or totally out of room, troughs are places to plant some prize small or delicate plants. They can be displayed in a close-up setting on patios or along paths, in your favorite natural setting. Grow most any plant you wish.

Information on how to build these troughs comes to us from the journals and bulletins of rock gardeners in England and Scotland beginning in the last century and continuing to today in all parts of the world. See the bibliography for articles I have collected and found useful.

Years ago, English gardeners used stone troughs, previously used as feeding troughs for cattle or pigs, to grow their collection of rock and alpine plants. These troughs as containers or planters provided air and moisture for roots invaluable to delicate rock plants. The plants survived when planted in them. The requirements for a well-drained environment were met. When troughs became too expensive and weren't easily available,

glazed earthenware sinks or concrete troughs were substituted. But because they looked unnatural and "fake" they were not desirable. Not only did they appear unnatural, but those that were concrete were even more objectionable because of their alkaline properties so deadly to plant life.

Innovative rock gardeners in England, experimenting with concrete formulas, learned that introducing peat produced a lighter and porous product. In the last mid-century, the president of the Alpine Society, Mr. F.H. Fisher, worked on a tufa rock substitute called "hypertufa" (tufa is a calcareous rock that is formed by water dissolving minerals and depositing them again around plant matter, and hypertufa is the man-made equivalent). Tufa supplied the answer to rock gardeners who looked to plant in porous soils or materials like volcanic rock. Mr. F.H. Fisher made substitute rocks that resembled tufa with a formula that is essentially the same as used today to construct hypertufa troughs. In an old Alpine Garden Society Bulletin article, S.E. Lilley described early trough making using experimental formulas such as:

One part sand, one part cement, and two parts peat yielded a tufa-like product.

Two and one-half parts sand, one part cement, and one and one-half parts peat yielded sandstone.

The formula varied. To get a heavier more limestone type box, more cement was added; and the lighter box was made with more peat.

In his article called "The Making of Troughs," Lilley described the kinds of molds used to shape the hypertufa trough. His suggestion was very much like what is done today. He used a set of two cardboard boxes: one held the outer dimensions and another box (inside) held the inner shape. The mixture, which was measured by volume and is still measured that way, must be thoroughly mixed. A strengthener such as fiber mesh or nylon fibers should be added to the mix before the water is added. The mix is moistened with water until it has the texture of cottage cheese. It is poured into the outside mold, forming the bottom about 21/2 inches deep. Then a smaller box or inner mold is set onto the base and inside the first box. These molds or boxes should be no less then 2 inches apart. These molds, one inside the other, form the walls of the hypertufa box. The mixture is then poured between these walls and it is set aside to harden for about 24 hours. After it begins to set, the mold can be removed. If one is using cardboard boxes as Lilley suggests, then the removal of the mold is merely to peal off the wet cardboard. Curing and finishing begin, and these are the most crucial parts of the process.

A trough maker does not have to be restrained by the rectangular shape but can invent a free form by using sand or earth as the form or mold. The shape of a trough can be circular, using a bowl as a mold, or oblong using a wastebasket or wooden box as the mold. You can construct your own form from polystyrene foam sheets that are cut to appropriate size and taped with duct tape. Create unconventional shapes by carving them out of blocks of polystyrene; the options are endless. Greater dimensions of the trough will result in heavy weight planters. Be prepared to make a large trough on site if dimensions are larger than two feet, since moving it will be difficult.

The trough planter will need drainage holes. Some troughs are made with a cork or dowel that is to be removed after the trough has cured marking the place of the hole. However, it is easy to use an electric drill with a 1/2-inch masonry drill bit to create the needed holes. When planting a trough, cover these holes with a bit of screening to prevent creatures in the pot.

Sometimes the trough maker can use this material to make something other than a planter. For instance, this mixture can be made waterproof. By adding acrylic bonding products to the water when making the mix, the

trough may be stronger but the perfect porosity and drainage may be affected. About 3 ounces of a tube of waterproof acrylic and the trough becomes a birdbath. No drain holes are needed.

The "bashing" was the term used by Mr. F.H. Fisher for finishing the container once the mold was removed. To give the product a realistic weathered look, it is necessary to scrape, chisel, or rub the outer surface with a wire brush until the "cement box" look is gone and a roughed stone finish is achieved. Imperfections like chips and gouges add to the naturalness of its appearance.

When the trough is finished being bashed, it is time to complete the curing and the drying. To cure cement remember the chemical process. As Michael Slater wrote in a Bulletin of the American Rock Garden Society (vol.52, no.2, entitled "Trough Construction"), "Curing is not drying." The hardening of the material is curing and that is occurring as soon as water is added to the dry concrete. The chemical process occurs immediately and goes on for months making the product harder. The initial curing of the mold happens in the first 24 to 32 hours. When your fingernail can scrape the surface, that is the time to unmold and shape or texture the box. But curing is not complete for several weeks or months. Slater says to be patient. He suggests that the mold be wrapped in plastic and kept moist to give the process all the time it needs.

One final process makes the trough ready for planting. That is the weathering process. Portland cement is toxic to plants when it is wet. It gives off "free lime" or calcium hydroxide and to get rid of this chemical, it must be neutralized by acid rain or vinegar in water. Allow the trough to sit with this neutralizing solution up to one month before planting. Or you could soak the trough in a solution of potassium permanganate overnight. When ready to plant fill the trough with a composted soil mix or coconut fiber mixed with sand. About 3: 1. There are many formulas and each is individual to the kind of planting intended.

Now the rock plants will be able to find a home in Southern California.

Formulas

There are many different mix ratios as you will see if you read through the different articles. Each author seems to have a favorite way. My preference is:

Cardboard molds — one box in another or florist's papier-mâché containers. The side walls of the finished trough should be no less than 1″ on small boxes and can go up to 4″ on large troughs.

One part —- Portland cement

One part — peat moss (sieved)

One part — perlite

One pinch of "Fibermesh" (www.fibermesh.com) or "Control" (nylon fiber) (www.nycon.com).

Mix the dry ingredients well.

Add enough water to create a "cottage cheese" texture.

Scoop the mix into the bottom of the mold. Press the mixture around the corners and up the sides. The bulging of the wet paper box can be controlled by wrapping with duct tape. Cover the wet mold with plastic and keep out of direct sun. Unmold within 24 hours or sooner if it is a large trough or if you are using foam molding. □

Christine S. Wotruba is the owner of Perennial Adventure Nursery in La Mesa, California and offers workshops on building of troughs. Contact the nursery at 619-660-9631 for information on these workshops.

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WHICH COLORS YOU USE IN THE LANDSCAPE MATTER

BY BETTY NEWTON

THIS CHART OF TREES, shrubs, vines, and some flowers widely grown in Southern California may be of use. Like its predecessor, the circle chart of bloom time by month of the year, it is handwritten, but still useful.

You have to put it to use. You have to start by knowing what the plants look like. The words "Thuja (Arborvitae)" seen at the bottom above "yellow green" means nothing to most people, and yet it is (or was) widely planted. It is that yellow-green evergreen that looks as if it were cast in a foundry. To its left on the chart, "Honeybush" is *Melianthus*, which has very large, jagged gray-green leaves. And left of that (if you turn the chart sideways) is "Lily of the Nile".

Once you can recognize most of the plants listed here (and you could get colored photographs just by going into search engine on your computer and typing in the name and clicking on "search"), you can carry what they look like in your mind. Then, as life allows you the time, you can use this chart as a major design tool.

I'm here to tell you that thuja would look bad next to honeybush or even the plant below it, Atlas cedar. It is the old yellow green doesn't go with gray green problem. I first learned about this from landscape architect Roland Hoyt.

Sedum confusum

Through observation, I find (this is an important refinement) that sometimes gray-green leaves and yellow-green leaves (say the licorice plant, *Helichrysum petiolare* and *Sedum confusum*) work fine in smaller scale, perhaps in a flower garden. The gardener undoubtedly took other things into consideration like shadow, volume, value, and hue. But on the scale of landscaping, using larger shrubs, avoid yellow green with gray. It is very disagreeable. I realized this first when walking across a field toward our car at White Flower Farms outside Litchfield, Connecticut. Two big evergreens on a berm, one yellow green, one gray, hated each other.

Use the chart just as you would a color wheel. You know that primary colors look good together. Choose a red-berried *Cotoneaster* shrub to mass near the yellow-flowered Mexican palo verde (*Parkinsonia aculeata*). Next look for blue in a compatible plant. So many of our so-called blues are really lavender or purple. I vote for the perennial low flower called *Felicia*. There are lots of blues in the earliest spring or late winter.

Cotoneaster parneyi (or *lactea*)

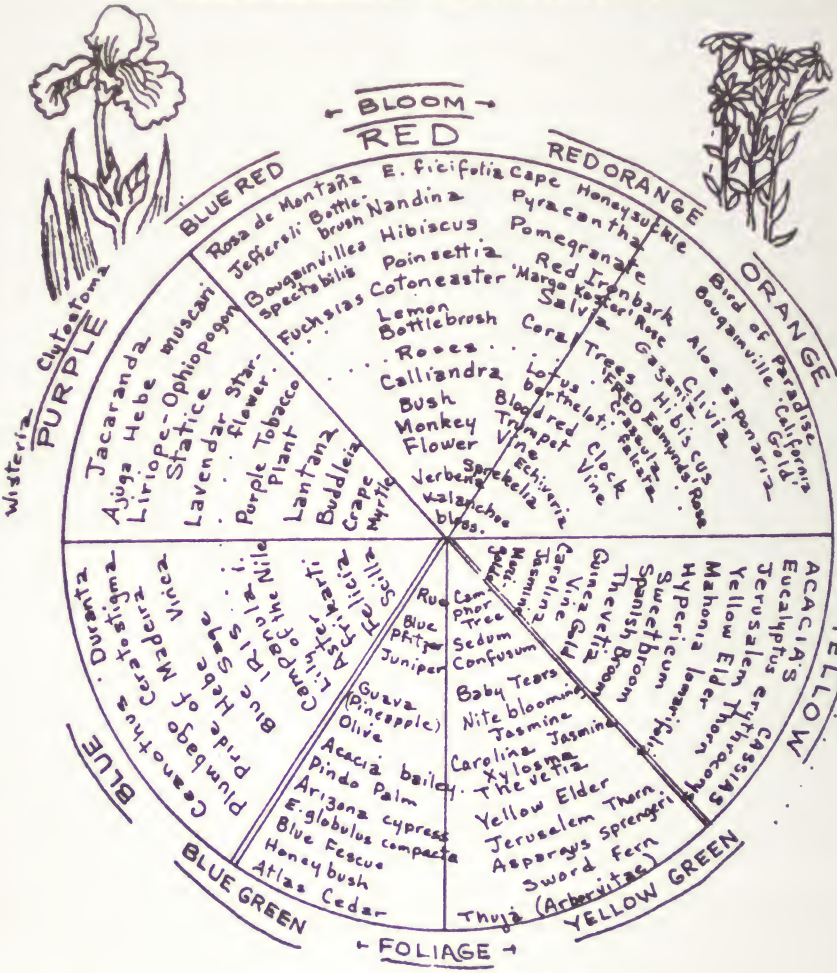
Now let's look at the total idea: A filmy tree with summer yellow flowers, low daisy-like blue flowers, and then a red-berried shrub (cotoneaster) and you choose the height. Whoops, we have a problem! The leaves of cotoneaster are blue, gray, green and the branches of the Mexican palo verde are yellow green. Guaranteed instant indigestion! I'll switch my Mexican palo verde tree for a Carolina jasmine vine. No, the leaves of that also tend to be yellow green. Maybe we could use one of the cassia trees, like the golden medallion.

Let's try another color challenge. We will plant tufts of blue fescue grass with some bird of paradise clumps and purple perennial statice. I believe, like the primary colors red, blue, and yellow, this is still a triad making a triangle on the color chart; and an agreeable color scheme.

Once a landscape class was out on a twilight field trip. We stood at the edge of a home's front yard and saw pyracantha (red-orange berries) with pale blue plumbago together. It looked great. They liked it. They had seen so many inharmonious color plantings. If that describes your yard, you could change one big old shrub. Put in the right-colored one and be on your way to quiet harmony!□

Betty Newton teaches for Grossmont Adult Education.

Color Chart for Bloom & Foliage



Trees, Shrubs, Vines & some Flowers

A TRIP TO GARDEN HEAVEN

BY CONNIE BECK CRUSHA

I HAVE ALWAYS HAD good vacation karma. How else to explain all the "free one day only" events I have attended in Europe and Mexico, the parking space left open for me in front of the Alhambra, a two-week drought in Oregon while I explored the beaches and forests. Late April in New Orleans turned out the same.

Our hotel has a courtyard with fountain and there are twinkling lights in the trees, which are also bedecked with Mardi Gras beads. There are two frolicking cats, and a building that dates to 1842. Of course it is still being used for suites. By New Orleans standards that is pretty new. The hotel is on the St. Charles Trolley line ($12 for a three day pass), which takes us up and down the garden district to marvel at another way of life—more gracious and much greener than we are used to.

Worn out from a day of strolling the narrow streets of the French Quarter, we take a respite in a three-hour cooking class (New Orleans School of Cooking) and learn to make the foods that sustain life in New Orleans: jambalaya, gumbo, bread pudding, and pralines. After generous samples of the products of the class, and a chance to catch our breaths from laughing at the teacher's stories, we hit the streets again. Looking up, there are iron balconies dripping with baskets of impatiens, jasmine, and verbena. On the crumbling brick and plaster walls, ferns and flowers have taken root. Through heavy grilles we see courtyards with fountains. On one chimney, no smoke has passed for probably a hundred years as the ferns hang ten feet down on all sides of it. In the French Market we buy all the makings of the Creole and Cajun dishes we have learned to cook, Mardi Gras masks, and a feather boa I find I have a sudden need for, then we need another break. The Cafe du Monde with its outdoor seating is the closest I've been to Paris in ten years. The coffee with chicory and beignets is burn-your-mouth hot and covered with mounds of powdered sugar. This is heaven and we haven't even got to the gardens yet.

The next morning, after an amazing breakfast at the French patisserie next door, we catch a cab for Longue Vue and its eight acres of gardens. Ellen Biddle Shipman helped with the design of the gardens and house. What fun she must have had working for a client so wealthy that when she decided the first house built on the spot didn't have enough views of the gardens, she had it dismantled and moved a few miles away. Then she built a new house where you can see the gardens from every room. It's a tossup which is the better concept: the third floor housing nothing but linens and flatware and twenty-eight sets of china, or the flower arranging room that opens right onto the garden—something I didn't even know I needed until this trip. The gardens are as you might imagine, lush and green and full of blossoms. There is even a mini-version of the Generalife garden at the end of the long lawn on one side of the house.

Where you don't smell fresh coffee or food cooking in New Orleans, then you smell the overwhelmingly

sweet *Ligustrum*. Not pruned into nasty hedges like we do here, the privet forms small trees covered in white blossoms that release their scent onto the air before you can even see where they are growing. And it would be wrong to mention pruning without talking about the trees along St. Charles Avenue. Instead of SDGE-hired hitmen hacking their tops out, the trees all over New Orleans are allowed to grow, artfully laced to permit the electric lines to pass through their canopies. This certainly adds to the beauty of the city. I never saw a topped tree in all of New Orleans, reason enough to consider moving there.

A few blocks past the French Market, we were not disappointed with the American Aquatic Gardens, a nursery with water gardens, statuary, plants, pots, and everything you might need to create a little heaven on earth in your own backyard.

On the other side of the Quarter is the park dedicated to Louis Armstrong. The piazza (the preferred term in New Orleans) is a large cobbled area surrounded by huge oaks that is called the Congo. This is where the slaves and freemen of color came to meet, to sell their handmade crafts, to have their festivals, to dance, and hold their own ceremonies separate from the Creole culture that circumscribed their lives. I found it beautiful and heartbreaking.

The Flower Arranging Room

This utilitarian workroom, designed for the arrangement of cut flowers, is the result of a desire to bring the garden into the house. It contains stainless steel sinks of different depths, storage space for tools and utensiles, and a worktable which is both functional and decorative, backed by a mirror, which enables the arranger to view the design from all angles.

I have never seen a swamp in my life, so a swamp tour is mandatory. We rethink that idea when the driver of our van thoughtfully points out all the roadkill on our way to the Honey Island Swamp. On the boat, our Cajun guide points to a swamp "camp" on the side of the Pearl River and says the Confederate flag just is not necessary to identify the owner as a redneck. The toilet in the front yard says it all for him. Our small boat slides through acres of arrowroot *Arum* and between the knees of the bald cypress as we get close-up looks at herons, egrets, a barred owl, snapping turtles, and alligators. The trees rise from less than two feet of water and grow amazingly tall. In the French Quarter, the balconies and trees are draped with beads. Here they wear Spanish moss.

One last Po'Boy sandwich and it's time to head to the airport. I have cans of coffee, beignet mix, Cajun seasoning, and a strong desire to plant a *Ligustrum* in my yard. □

Connie Beck Crusha sometimes teaches landscape design and organic gardening for Grossmont Adult Education. Starting 15 January, she will be instructing Habitat Steward classes.

All photographs are at Longue Vue House and Gardens. Outside pictures taken by the author.

Book Reviews

PLANTING THE NATURAL GARDEN

Piet Oudolf & Henk Gerritsen

Portland, Timber Press, 144 pages, 170 color photos, 9″ x 10⅝″, hardcover, $34.95

Piet Oudolf is one of my favorite garden designers. I have read several of his books. His sense of the natural look and perfect color combinations remind one of a painter's skill in creating a scene. Browsing through one of his books is like browsing through a landscape painter's works. He is located in the Netherlands and has done many European gardens as well as winning a prize at the Chelsea Flower Show. He was one of the designers selected for Chicago's Millennium Garden Design Competition. I just recently read that this is opening in July (2004), so I am looking forward to visiting this garden this year.

This book is an update of *Dream Plants* (1990) and *Dream Plants for the Natural Garden* (1999) Some plants proved not so reliable as thought and some new species and cultivars have been added.

The first half of the book is the listing of perennials and grasses with close-up pictures of the flowers or grasses. The second half is divided by uses such as: Lush, Airy Exuberant, Gloomy (for plants as they appear in autumn and winter), Tranquility, and others. Some other sections are Good Neighbors, and Planting Pairs.

If you have never been exposed to one of Oudolf's books this would be a good one to begin with.

Reviewed by R. Cox

THE NATURAL GARDENER: Lessons from the Landscape

Chris Beardshaw

North Pomfret Vt., Trafalgar Square Publishing, 2004, 160 pages, 160 color photos, 8¾″ x 11″, hardcover, $35

This glorious book is all about planting in sympathy with the land. It features gardens that naturally replicate the environment of rockeries, still water, woodlands, meadows, and wetlands. Focused mainly on the British Isles, much of it may not be applicable to our region, but the exquisite beauty of the color photos of natural settings and their garden counterparts could inspire ideas for even the smallest yard.

The author, the host of several popular BBC garden shows, takes nature's example of plants growing in optimum conditions of soil, light, and water as a guide to garden design. Thus, even if the average garden lacks the space and scope of the natural areas he desires, plant selections and placement can echo the natural effect. Each chapter includes a general discussion of a natural environment and how it can be translated into a home garden setting. Plant lists and separate pages for seasonal changes are the parts that relate most directly to the U.K., but sidebar "cuttings" of extraneous information contain many nuggets of wisdom for gardeners anywhere.

The "Meadow Garden" is the one that could best apply to Southern California. A combination of grasses and flowers, annuals and perennials, it initially can be sown by seed, or planted from nursery stock, but without irrigation, feeding or weeding, maintenance eventually can be simply a matter of mowing once or twice a year. Lawns are particularly apt candidates for this treatment.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

GARDENING ON PAVEMENT, TABLES, AND HARD SURFACES

George Schenk

Portland, Timber Press, 2004, 192 pages, 109 color photos, 7⅝″ x 9¼″, hardcover, $29.95

Outgrown driveways, overgrown patios, and old tables are all potential gardening sites according to this one-time nurseryman and landscaper. In such far-flung places as the American Northwest, New Zealand, and the Philippines, he has developed lush plantings literally from dry, hard ground and his book is a thorough guide to how and why it's done.

The basic approach is to mound fast draining soil, usually a combination of sand and humus, and frame it with any of a variety of materials, from wood to masonry. Depending on the depth of the soil, from four to thirty inches, it can then be planted with whatever would be appropriate for the site, climate, and exposure. Enhanced by handsome color photos, his explanations are easy to follow.

Several chapters are devoted to photo "tours" of the hard surface gardens he has planted, many with before and after views to show just how they were done. In most cases, the hard-surface gardens came about as a means to soften existing pavements. In one, an adjoining lawn was

encouraged to grow over the edge of a driveway to form a solid mat of the desired size. In another, the base was mounded up against a masonry wall that abutted a pavement to provide a lush and softer foundation. In many cases, small plant plugs were placed within the supporting frames, to cover them and provide an overall density of foliage.

Gardens planted on stumps, rocks and tables feature a huge variety of themes and styles, from tropical to bonsai. In all cases, maintenance methods and descriptions of suggested plant material are included.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

BREEDING NEW PLANTS AND FLOWERS
Charles W. Welch

No. Pomfret, Vt., Crowood Press, Distributed by Trafalgar Square, 2003, 144 pages, 200 color photos, 52 line drawings, 7½″ x 10″, hardcover, $35

Add excitement to your gardening by creating your own plant varieties! That is the promise of this book, whose cover features a stigma being brushed with pollen. High tech stuff to some, but this author makes it seem like easy as mixing paint colors! Following an introduction describing plant origins, flower types, the importance of pollen and the various ways that plants cross-pollinate on their own, the text jumps right into the many types of flowers and plants that the average gardener can "play around with". Fruits and vegetables are included.

Starting with "A" for African violet," the author describes each species, identifying its ease or difficulty in hybridizing. *Aquilegias* are presented as easy to work with, while hybridizing begonias is more difficult. Some are both easy and difficult, in different stages, but all are carefully described, from choosing the parent plants to work from, through crossing pollen, gathering seed, and testing the seedlings. Color photos illustrate the various processes, and a chart indicates the sites for best results plus special notes for nurturing the new plants.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

PLANT PROPAGATION A to Z
Geoff Bryant

Buffalo, Firefly Books Inc., 2003, 224 pages, 500 color photos, 7¾″ x 10″, hardcover, $35

"Growing Plants for Free" is the subtitle of this book, which presents the many methods for propagating plants in a concise and organized way. An explanation of just what plant propagation is precedes a description of necessary tools, pest and disease control, and a table of general propagating methods. From there on, it's all details.

A chapter on growing from seed and spores includes a table on germination requirements, followed by one on propagation by division with a complete description of the various kinds of rosettes, offsets, runners, bulbs, tubers, suckers, and many other devices plants have for multiplying. Following the book's format, another lengthy table indicates the seasons, cycles, and other facets of this type of propagation. Stem and leaf cuttings, layering, and budding are covered in similar fashion.

Each chapter is carefully illustrated with drawings, diagrams, and photos. The last section distills the content of the earlier tables, with complete information relating to each of over 1,000 ornamental plants. It is hard to imagine any questions about plant propagation that are not answered in this slender volume.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TREES
John White, illustrated by David More

Portland, Timber Press 2002, 800 pages, 4,500 color plates, 7¼″ x 10⅜″, hardcover, $79.95

NATIVE TREES FOR NORTH AMERICAN LANDSCAPES: From the Atlantic to the Rockies
Guy Sternberg with Jim Wilson

Portland, Timber Press, 2004, 552 pages, 513 color photos, 96 line drawings, 8½″ x 11″, hardcover, $59.95

Those who enjoy books on trees are really having a banner year. In addition to the locally published book on San Diego trees, Timber Press has published two large encyclopedic works on trees. The earlier one (Dec. 2002) describes over 10,000 species or varieties of trees. David Moore made it his personal project to record botanically as many trees as possible from the British Isles and Ireland. Since many trees popular in Europe are American natives the selection is more relevant than may be at first supposed. The botanical paintings are outstanding. The details of the leaves, flowers, seeds, barks, and cones are truly better than photos. Deciduous trees are shown both with and without their leaves. The text includes nativity, descriptions to help identify, and occasionally some item of historical interest.

The second book on native trees has a more extensive text and descriptions are more elaborate. The book had its beginnings with the book *Landscaping with Native Trees: The Northeast, Midwest, Midsouth, and Southeast Edition*, by the same authors. California and Florida are definitely not included. We do have some eastern trees growing here that may not reach the same development at maturity as in the east. One example is *Gleditsia triacanthos*, honey locust tree, featured in the book and growing at the north end of the Spreckles Organ Pavilion at Balboa Park.

Reviewed by R. Cox

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In the David and Tressie Crocker garden railway in Fallbrook, fortnight lily (*Dietes* sp.), a piece of jade plant (*Crassula arborescens*), and blooming mother-of-thyme (*Thymus serpyllum*) ground cover go well with the natural appearing mulch and boulders. In this scene, it seems that 1920s tourists have come to visit an abandoned farmhouse from an earlier time. Photograph by Linda K. Jurhs.

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